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19 January 1965

OCI No. 0547/65

Copy No. 46

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ON THE COUNTERINSURGENCY LIST

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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W A R N I N G

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
19 January 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Developments in Countries of the
Counterinsurgency List

1. Congo (Leopoldville)

Rebel activity resumed in many areas of the Congo last week after a temporary lull. Insurgent pressures on Stanleyville increased while the mercenary-led forces in the northeast continued their build-up for a drive to the border areas scheduled to start this week.

Government forces continue to encounter numerous ambushes and roadblocks on the roads north and east of Stanleyville, and the city's security situation has been further complicated by the infiltration at night of sizable numbers of rebels posing as government supporters. Large bands continue to operate in the surrounding countryside.

Rebel activity has intensified in the extreme northeast. There are reports that at least one rebel group now has uniforms. Other insurgent bands in this region who are using their modern weapons more effectively than previously have forced the government units with their thinning mercenary ranks to abandon locations near the Ugandan border.

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Northwest of Stanleyville, the mercenary-led force operating out of Bumba--260 miles downriver from Stanleyville--recently entered and abandoned the town of Aketi, 100 miles farther east on the Bumba-Paulis road. Local tribes have been assisting the government forces.

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Rebel groups in the region west of Stanleyville and along the left bank of the Congo River have blocked attempts to mount a major offensive against them from Boende in the west. The government forces in Ikela, on the Boende-Stanleyville road, now are reportedly moving on other large rebel-held towns on this route.

The government continues to clean up the area around Kindu in central Congo. Sizable rebel groups operating in the countryside between Stanleyville and Bukavu and from Bukavu toward locations south of Kindu have stopped government attempts to open these routes.

The situation south of Bukavu has deteriorated. Government forces in Uvira are reportedly encircled and rebel activity has increased in the valley between the two cities. Also, the ANC garrison in Uvira is somewhat unreliable. The insurgents in the high ground around the city have mortars and reportedly again control the road crossing into Burundi. The present unsettled situation in Burundi--previously one of the principal supply routes--may again permit substantial quantities of aid to reach the rebels.

South of Uvira, the large rebel force in Fizi, which probably receives arms across Lake Tanganyika, has stalled all government attempts to move north from Katanga. These insurgents have not yet been able to dislodge government units from locations along the north Ktangan border, however.

2. Laos

The military situation continues to be ^{generally} quiet, with activity limited to rightist clearing operations east of Savannakhet and some ~~light~~ Communist activity in the Attapeu area and northeast of the Plaine des Jarres.

There is little new information on Communist troop dispositions in south-central Laos. The most recent reports have reflected extensive movement of trucks--presumably empty--north toward North Vietnam. There has been only a moderate input from North Vietnam along Routes 12 and 23 in the last week. There is some evidence, however, that substantial truck movements on Route 7 from North Vietnam to the Plaine des Jarres continue.

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The destruction of the Ban Ken bridge will probably hamper but not prevent further Communist truck movements on this route. Some traffic has apparently already forded the river near the downed bridge.

3. Colombia

Leaflets signed by the National Liberation Army (ELN) and urging the populace to support an antigovernment insurrection appeared on 14 January in the oil center of Barrancabermeja. ELN is the leftist extremist group which attacked the town of Simacota, some 70 miles from Barrancabermeja, on 7 January. The Colombian Army claims that it has captured three participants in the Simacota raid.

4. Ecuador

Vencir o Morir (victory or death), an allegedly well-armed revolutionary faction of the Communist Party led by a former trainee in Cuba, claims credit for a successful bank robbery in Guayaquil on 15 December. It has also expressed hopes of bombing the US Consulate General.

The growing dissatisfaction among extreme activists over the apparent abandonment by the Communist Party of plans to start early guerrilla warfare appear to have stimulated the development of terrorist organizations like the Vencir o Morir.

5. Venezuela

On 11 January a store in Barcelona, eastern Venezuela, was robbed of about \$1,700 by 4 men who claimed to be FALN members. The following day a group of about 15 armed men machine gunned the police station and attempted to rob a bank in Quiriquire, a large eastern Venezuelan town.

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[REDACTED] Havana is emphasizing that Venezuela is one of the three Latin American countries--along with Colombia and Guatemala--where it considers prospects for revolutionary success are brightest. Cuban leaders probably have underscored the importance of intensifying revolutionary activities in recent meetings with FALN leaders. Cuba can be expected to continue to give considerable propaganda support, some training, and probably some financial aid to the FALN.

6. No significant developments relating to insurgency have been reported with regard to Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, or Peru.

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